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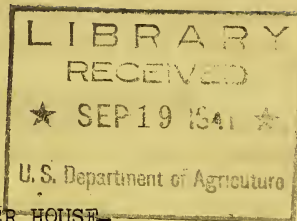
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service

Washington, D. C.



LABELING OF MINERAL OIL-PYRETHRUM AND OTHER HOUSE-
HOLD FLY SPRAYS

Household fly sprays are subject to the provisions of the Federal Insecticide Act if shipped in interstate commerce, imported into or exported from the United States, or marketed in the District of Columbia or the territories. This act requires that the labeling of any article within its purview shall not be false or misleading in any particular.

COMPOSITION OF MINERAL OIL-PYRETHRUM SPRAYS. The mineral oil-pyrethrum fly sprays are extracts of pyrethrum in a carrier of mineral oil similar to deodorized kerosene and usually contain some perfume. As a general rule the active ingredients from one pound of a pyrethrum (containing 0.9 percent or more of pyrethrins) in one gallon of a suitable oil will be sufficient for an effective spray. The mineral oil used should not be too light (low boiling) since preparations made with such an oil have been found to be less effective.

INSECTICIDAL USES. Although these products are commonly referred to as "fly sprays" they are often recommended for use against a number of other household insects, - as for example, mosquitoes, roaches (water bugs), bed bugs, ants, and clothes moths. They are contact sprays; that is, in order to be effective they must be applied in such a manner as to hit the insects to be killed. Since the habits and life cycles of different insects vary, the directions must in each case be adapted to the particular varieties of insects to be controlled, as for example:

For flies and mosquitoes. The directions should provide for closing all doors and windows and thoroughly spraying the material in all parts of the room, particularly toward the ceiling, so as to fill the room with a fine mist. The room should be left closed for 10 to 15 minutes, and the fallen insects then swept up and destroyed. This latter precaution is necessary because some of them will be only paralyzed and will later recover. Preparations of this type applied to the face and hands have some effect for a short period in repelling mosquitoes.

For ants, roaches, and bedbugs. The product should be sprayed thoroughly with force into all parts of the room, paying special attention to cracks and crevices and hitting as many of the insects as possible. For the control of

bedbugs the bed, all tufts and seams in the mattress, and all places in the room where the bugs may hide should be thoroughly sprayed. Directions should be given for repeating the treatment as often as may be necessary.

For clothes moths. The directions should provide for cleaning all articles to be protected and for following with a thorough spraying to be applied particularly to seams and folds. The interior of all containers should also be thoroughly sprayed. Unless the articles are to be stored immediately after treatment in moth-tight containers, directions should be given for repeating the sprayings at least once a month. Preparations of this type should not be recommended for use on upholstered furniture except where explicit directions are given for opening up the upholstery and heavily spraying or saturating the interior fabric, as well as the outside surfaces, and repeating the treatment when necessary.

UNWARRANTED CLAIMS. These preparations cannot be relied upon to repel mosquitoes when used in the open such as on the porch or about camps. They are not effective against all household insects and claims of "extermination," the abbreviation "etc.," and statements such as "all other insects," "all crawling insects," and "all flying insects" are unwarranted and should not be made. These sprays cannot be relied upon to control any insect that cannot be reached by the spray. This applies also to the eggs, which are often placed where they are inaccessible.

Products of this type are injurious under certain conditions to both man and animals. Therefore their labels must not bear such unqualified claims as "non-poisonous," "non-injurious," or "harmless to man and animals."

They are of no value in disinfecting and will not prevent diseases.

INFLAMMABILITY. Kerosene is, of course, inflammable and fly sprays containing it should not be sprayed in the presence of open flames. A warning statement on the label is desirable.

DETERIORATION. Mineral oil-pyrethrum sprays, if exposed too long to the light of the sun in ordinary glass bottles, may lose much of their efficiency due to the decomposition of the active ingredients. It has also been reported that deterioration may occur due to decomposition of the pyrethrins through contact with the solder or lining of the can when packed or stored for considerable periods of time in metal cans.

INGREDIENT STATEMENT. The Insecticide Act requires that any preparation containing an inert ingredient must bear on its label a statement of the name and percentage amount of each and every such inert ingredient and the fact that they are inert, or, in lieu of this, a statement of the name and percentage amount of each and every active ingredient and the total percentage of the inert ingredients. Preparations of the type described above ordinarily consist entirely of active ingredients and no statement regarding the ingredients is required to appear on the label. However, such claims as "Active Ingredients 100%" and "Contains no inert ingredients" are unobjectionable provided, of course, they are true. The statement "100% active" is objectionable as it may be taken to imply that the product is 100% effective.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD FLY SPRAYS. Household fly sprays may contain toxic materials other than pyrethrins - as, for example, rotenone, isobutyl-undecyleneamide, ^S butoxy-^S thiocyanodiethyl ether. The labeling of products of this character is subject to the same general requirements as for mineral oil-pyrethrum preparations.

C. C. McDonnell,
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